

Appl. No. 10/616,956
Amdt. Dated March 2, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 2, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 24 (cancelled)

25.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus for wild birds comprising

(a) a platform having at least one low point and constructed and arranged to be connected at a discharge opening at each low point to an inlet opening in a hollow support means attachable to a base and adapted to provide in operation an unobstructed substantially vertical downward waste discharge path from each discharge opening to a replaceable collection container provided within the base;

(b) a cover member adapted to

(i) be maintained in spaced-apart relationship from the platform by a plurality of cover support members provided at selected points on an upper surface of the platform, and

(ii) provide, in operation, vertical coverage over at least all of a horizontal plane connecting all points on a perimeter of the platform; and

(c) hanging means provided on an interior surface of the cover adapted for releasably securing a bird feeding means.

26.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the hollow support means comprises a telescopic tube, wherein in an operating position

(i) each section has a larger internal diameter than an immediately higher section, and

(ii) securing means are provided to retain the sections in a selected position after adjustment.

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27.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein a ground-facing surface of the base is substantially open.

28.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 27, wherein the base is provided with fixing means to secure it to a supporting surface.

29.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein a sidewall of the base comprises access means for selectively removing and replacing the collection container.

30.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the collection container has a water permeable base.

31.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the water permeable base comprises a fine mesh.

32.(new) An outdoor feeder apparatus as claimed in Claim 25, wherein dimensions of the platform are selected such that a minimum distance of the perimeter from an outer surface of the hollow support means exceeds a maximum limb span of animals capable of climbing the hollow support means.